

Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 (ISO) W

----- 068496

O R 121025Z MAR 74 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5325

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 3671

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:

SUBJECT: KHMER SITUATIONER

1. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT ITEMS TWO THROUGH FOUR
DESCRIBE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE
PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

2. GOVERNMENT FORCES OVERWHELMED COMMUNIST UNITS IN
FORTIFIED POSITIONS TODAY AND RE-OPENED HIGHWAY 4 EAST
OF KOMPONG SPEU. AT LEAST SIXTY-TWO COMMUNIST SOLDIERS ARE
KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN KILLED DURING THE ENGAGEMENT AND
AS A RESULT OF HEAVY GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY AND AIR
STRIKES DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. GOVERNMENT SOURCES
STATE THAT COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE EXTREMELY HEAVY AND
ESTIMATED THAT THE FINAL COMMUNIST CASUALTY FIGURE WILL
SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEED THAT FIGURE. GOVERNMENT LOSSES
DURING THE FIGHTING WERE VERY LIGHT. COMMUNIST FORCES
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STILL CONTROL A SECTION OF HIGHWAY 4 TWENTY-FIVE KILOME-

TERS SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU.

3. AT KAMPOT YESTERDAY GOVERNMENT UNITS CONDUCTED A SWEEP OPERATION NORTHEAST OF THE CITY AGAINST ONLY LIGHT COMMUNIST RESISTANCE. MINOR GROUND ACTION WAS ALSO REPORTED NEAR THE KAMPOT AIRFIELD. THE MILITARY SITUATION REMAINED ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED, HOWEVER.

4. THREE HUNDRED FAMILIES FROM A COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREA FOURTEEN KILOMETERS WEST OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PURSAT WERE REPORTED YESTERDAY TO HAVE LEFT THEIR HOMES IN ORDER TO LIVE UNDER GOVERNMENT PROTECTION NEAR THE CITY. PURSAT-BASED GOVERNMENT TROOPS PROVIDED SECURITY FOR THE VILLAGERS' MOVE.

5. GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUED SWEEP OPERATIONS IN THE BASSAC-MEKONG PENINSULA SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH YESTERDAY--AN AREA IN WHICH A NUMBER OF DEFENSIVE POSITIONS HAVE CHANGED HANDS SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE PAST MONTH. DURING YESTERDAY'S OPERATION, GOVERNMENT UNITS WITHDREW FROM AND THEN RETOOK POSITIONS NEAR ROBAS ANGKANH. GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT.

6. ELSEWHERE IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA, MILITARY ACTION YESTERDAY REMAINED AT REDUCED LEVELS. GOVERNMENT FORCES REPORTED NO PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COMMUNIST POSITIONS NEAR ROUTE 38 SOUTH OF THE CITY. LIGHT COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS NORTH OF THE CITY AND TO THE SOUTHEAS ALONG THE BASSAC RIVER.

7. GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE ATTEMPTING TO RELIEVE AN EN-CIRCLED GOVERNMENT OUTPOST NEAR THE ONE-KILOMETER CUT ON HIGHWAY 1 FORTY KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH ALONG THE MEKONG. HEAVY COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE OUTPOST YESTERDAY.

8. DELAYED REPORTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AIR BASE AT REAM DESCRIBE A LIGHT COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACK AND SEVERAL LIGHT MORTAR ATTACKS NEAR THE AIRFIELD ON SUNDAY. NO GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. DAMAGE TO
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THREE REAM-BASED KHMER AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT AS A RESULT OF A COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACK ON MARCH 9 IS NOW REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY LESS SERIOUS THAN INITIALLY REPORTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFILTRATION, COMMUNISTS, COMBAT CASUALTIES, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM03671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740350/aaaabuwn.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2002 by elbezejf>; RELEASED <15 JUL 2002 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER SITUATIONER
TAGS: MOPS, MILI, CB
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005